

AVIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary September 12, 2002

The meeting of the Aviation Advisory Committee was called to order at 11:00 a.m., on Thursday, September 12, 2002 at the Airport Office Conference Room at Snohomish County Airport in Everett, Washington.

Members present were: Carol Key, FAA; Barbara Tolbert, EAA; Bonnie Cole, Women in Aviation; Al Banholzer, WPA; Tom Green, CAP; Scott Plank, Aviation at Large; Tim Brooks, Kenmore Air; Dale Carmen, representing WAMA for Lynae Jacobson; Dave Ketchum, representing WSCAA for Jerry Richardson.

Aviation Division present: John Sibold, Director; Stan Allison, Aviation Operations; Debby Coyne, Outreach and Education Coordinator, Marilee Jensen, Executive Assistant

Guests: Rita Brogan, Meeting Facilitator; Dave Waggoner, Director of Aviation at Snohomish County Airport

INTRODUCTIONS

John Sibold introduced Rita Brogan, who will be the facilitator for today's Aviation Advisory Committee. He explained that the Advisory Committee has moved into a more formal phase, in response to the audit recommendations of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee. Not all members of the Committee have been selected yet, but it is expected that they will be selected prior to the next meeting, which will probably be in December. Rita reviewed the meeting objectives, and stated that her role will be to serve as a neutral facilitator of the Committee.

COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

Rita Brogan reviewed the highlights of Draft Operating Guidelines for Advisory Committee. (See attached)

The Committee is advisory to the Director of Aviation, who reports to the Secretary of Transportation. There will be 15 members, with two-year terms. The Committee will meet quarterly and will operate in compliance with WSDOT's Committee Rules of Order. The Committee was convened to serve as a formal mechanism for on-going customer aviation transportation. It will advise the Aviation Director on policies, planning and initiatives affecting aviation transportation.

The committee is advisory in nature, and the Department benefits from the best thinking of Committee members in making its decisions. The

meetings will use a consensus model in developing its recommendations. If members of the committee cannot agree on an issue, then the Director and the Department would like to know what the reasons are for differing perspectives for its informed decision-making.

Ms. Brogan requested that members of the committee review the draft guidelines and provide those comments to John Sibold within two weeks. The department will consolidate those comments into a final draft.

DIVISION PRIORITIES

John Sibold reviewed the priorities of the Aviation Division for the 2003-2004 biennium. These include:

- Customer delivery that meets customer expectations and can be measured
- Education Outreach that develops programs to reach a broader base of the aviation customers
- Airport Aid Program defines standards and eligibility in a way that is fair and equitable
- Integration of Aviation into WSDOT to create greater connectivity between different modes of transportation

BUSINESS PLAN FY 2001 – 2003

John Sibold presented the Aviation Division's Business Plan. (See attached)

Mr. Sibold explained the top challenge for the Division is to obtain new sources of funding for the Division, as aircraft fuel sales are down since 9/11, resulting in decreased fuel tax (\$.075/gal to \$.070/gal). Declining fuel tax revenues result in fewer dollars available for airport aid. The per-gallon tax is determined by a formula set by the Legislature RCW 82.42.025. The Department of Licensing determines the fuel tax rate every six months based on retail sales of aviation fuel and number of gallons sold in the state. The Committee members will be provided with an electronic copy of the RCW.

The Division is challenged to lobbying for support of new funding initiatives during a shaky economy and state budget. In addition to needing to respond for an increased demand for services with less money, including assisting smaller airports in capital planning, the Division will need to look at ways to move beyond user fees targeted at general aviation pilots.

Mr. Sibold reviewed the Business Plan Objectives thru July 2003

- Find additional funding
- Protect existing airports
- Maintain runway surfaces
- Educate public on the importance of airports to the transportation system

- Improve communication to customers
- Revise Airport Aid Program

Summary of Committee Comments

- Coordination between the State and FAA should be strengthened in a variety of areas, and specifically regarding land use issues around airports.
- Although the Aviation Division should be an advocate for aviation, it is also a regulator. Therefore, it needs to keep in mind the broad base of constituent needs.
- It was recommended that the Division work with its partners to develop program educating state and local lawmakers on the value of aviation to the state economy.
- It is important the Division understand and support the needs of small airports.
- Members of the Committee are enthusiastic about working with the Division to form a strong legislative program to address future funding needs.

OTHER BUSINESS

It was decided that all meeting materials will be sent electronically in advance of the meetings, and hard copies will be handed out at the meetings for those who require them.

Committee members were reminded to provide their additional comments on the Business Plan and Operating Guidelines to John Sibold over the next week.

The next meeting of the Aviation Advisory Committee will be scheduled in December and will focus on legislative priorities for a revised fee structure and a review of the recommendations of the Airport Aid Task Force.